(c) A quantity of 179 MT of paddy was procured by TRIFED in Arunachal Pradesh during the last khariff marketing season 1991-92.

(d) The stocks, onforming to prescribed quality specifications have been taken over by F.C.I.

Minimum price for sugar cane

4455. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have so far taken any decision regarding fixing the statutory minimum price for sugar cane as per the recommendations of the Commission for Agriculture Cost and Prices;

(b) what is the remunerative price fixed so far by Government for sugarcane for the coming crushing season; and

(c) by when Sugar Industry is expected to clear the arrears/losses which the sugar cane farmers are suffering in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane for the season 1993-94 was announced in advance at Rs. 32.50 per quintal (linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent) in February 1993. The Report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices on sugarcane price policy for revision of SMP for 1993-94 season and advance announcement for 1994-95 season has not yet been received.

(c) The cane price arrears in the whole country, as on 30-6-93, wtre 4.02 per cent of the total cane price payable by the sugar factories. The responsibility for ensuring timely payment of sugarcane price dues is primarily that of the State Governments, who have necessary powers and field organisations to enforce such payments. The Central Government, on its part, has been advising the State Governments from time to time to take necessary steps for the clearance of such dues.

Use of edible oil in manufacturing vanaspati

4456. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow free use of edible oil in the manufacture of vanaspati to check downtrend in oil seeds prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a steps of Government would not create adulteration in the vanaspati; and

(d) if so, what corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A proposal from the Vanaspati Manufacturers Association of India to allow free use of edible oil in the manufacture of vanaspati has been received.

No decision has yet been taken.

Reduction in FCI workers in West Bengal

4457. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has drastically reduce a number of its establishments in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether thousands of workers in Food Corporation of India would be declared as surplus; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to safeguard the interest of workers in FCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): Yes, Sir.